AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An actuating member for a railway vehicle brake assembly, such railway vehicle brake assembly having an air bag actuator incorporated therein, said actuating member comprising:

(a) a first substantially vertically disposed plate like member, said first substantially vertically disposed plate like member having a first substantially ~~planer~~ planar surface engageable with a first surface of a second substantially vertically disposed plate like member attached to such air bag actuator;

(b) a substantially horizontally disposed plate like member connected to said first substantially vertically disposed plate like member adjacent a bottom edge thereof and extending substantially perpendicular to said first substantially ~~planer~~ planar surface of said first substantially vertically disposed plate like member for shielding at least a first portion of such air bag actuator from detrimental extraneous foreign material; and

(c) a means connected to a radially opposed second surface of said first substantially vertically disposed plate like member for securing said actuating member to a control linkage of such railway vehicle brake assembly.

2. (Currently Amended) An actuating member, according to claim 1, wherein said actuating member further includes a first plate like member connected to an upper surface of said substantially horizontally disposed member and to said first planar surface of said first substantially vertically disposed plate like member adjacent a first side edge thereof and extending substantially perpendicular thereto for shielding at least a second portion of such air bag actuator from detrimental extraneous foreign material and for providing added strength between said first substantially vertically disposed member and said substantially horizontally disposed member.

3. (Currently Amended) An actuating member, according to claim 2, wherein said actuating member further includes a second plate like member connected to said upper surface of said substantially horizontally disposed member and to said first ~~planer~~ planar surface of said first substantially vertically disposed plate like member adjacent a second side edge thereof and extending substantially perpendicular thereto for shielding at least a third portion of such air bag actuator from detrimental extraneous foreign material and for providing added strength between said first substantially vertically disposed member and said substantially horizontally disposed member.

4. (Currently Amended) An actuating member, according to claim 1, wherein said first substantially vertically disposed plate like member includes at least one mounting aperture formed therethrough for enabling securing of such air bag actuator to said first substantially vertically disposed plate like member.

~~6~~ 5. (Currently Amended) An actuating member, according to claim 1, wherein said means connected to said radially opposed second surface of said substantially first vertically disposed plate like member for securing said actuating member to such control linkage of such railway vehicle brake assembly includes at least one plate member having an aperture formed therethrough and a pin member disposed in said aperture for securing said at least one plate member to such control linkage.

~~7~~ 6. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for mounting an air bag actuator to at least one brake beam, said apparatus comprising:

(a) a first substantially vertically disposed plate like member having a planar surface portion for engagement with a substantially planar surface portion of a second substantially vertically disposed plate like member connected to such air bag actuator;

(b) a guide means connected to and disposed closely adjacent a first outer edge of and substantially perpendicular to said ~~planer~~ planar surface portion of said first substantially vertically disposed plate like member for guiding and alignment during reciprocal motion of such air bag actuator; and

(c) a securing means connected to said first substantially vertically disposed plate like member for enabling attachment of said apparatus to a rigid structure.

~~8~~ 7. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, according to claim ~~7~~ 6, wherein said apparatus includes a pair of guide means, a second one of said pair of guide means disposed closely adjacent a second ~~outter~~ outer edge of and substantially perpendicular to said ~~planer~~ planar surface portion of said first substantially vertically disposed plate like member for guiding and alignment during reciprocal motion of such air bag actuator.

~~9~~ 8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, according to claim ~~7~~ 6, wherein said planar surface portion of said first substantially vertically disposed plate like member includes at least one aperture formed therethrough for enabling attachment to such air bag actuator.

~~10~~ 9. (Currently Amended) An air spring actuator assembly, said air spring actuator assembly comprising:

(a) at least one air bag spring;

(b) a first substantially vertically disposed plate like member, said first substantially vertically disposed plate like member having a first substantially ~~planer~~ planar surface engageable with a first surface of a second substantially vertically disposed plate like member attached to said at least one air bag spring;

(c) a substantially horizontally disposed plate like member connected to said first substantially vertically disposed plate like member adjacent a bottom edge thereof and extending substantially perpendicular to said first substantially ~~planer~~ planar surface of said first substantially vertically disposed plate like member for shielding at least a first portion of said at least one air bag spring from detrimental extraneous foreign material;

(d) a means connected to a radially opposed second surface of said first substantially vertically disposed plate like member for securing said actuating member to a control linkage of a railway vehicle brake assembly;

(e) a second substantially vertically disposed plate like member having a second planar surface portion for engagement with a substantially planar surface portion of a second

substantially vertically disposed plate like member connected to such air bag spring;

(f) a guide means connected to and disposed closely adjacent a first outer edge of and substantially perpendicular to at least one of said first and said second ~~planer~~ planar surface portion of a respective one of said first and said second substantially vertically disposed plate like member for guiding and alignment during reciprocal motion of such air bag ~~actuator~~ spring; and

(g) a securing means connected to said second substantially vertically disposed plate like member for enabling attachment of said apparatus to a rigid structure.

~~11~~ 10. (Currently Amended) An air spring actuator assembly, according to claim ~~10~~ 9, wherein said means connected to a radially opposed second surface of said first substantially vertically disposed plate like member for securing said actuating member to a control linkage of a railway vehicle brake assembly includes a push rod and a shield member for substantially protecting said air spring actuator from foreign matter damage.

~~12~~ 11. (Currently Amended) An air spring actuator, according to claim ~~10~~ 9, wherein said air spring actuator

further includes a means for limiting reciprocal motion of ~~the~~ said air spring actuator during evacuation of air pressure from said at least one air bag spring.

~~13~~ 12. (Currently Amended) An air spring actuator, according to claim ~~12~~ 11, wherein said means for limiting reciprocal motion of said brake actuator is a rigid member disposed internally within said air spring actuator.

~~14~~ 13. (Currently Amended) An air spring actuator, according to claim ~~10~~ 9, wherein said air spring actuator further includes an air inlet in communication with said at least one air bag spring.

~~15~~ 14. (Canceled)

~~16~~ 15. (Canceled).

~~17~~ 16. (Currently amended) An air spring actuator, according to claim ~~10~~ 9, wherein said air spring actuator further includes a ~~visual travel indicator~~ means for visual determination of a travel length of said air spring actuator.

~~18~~ 17. (Currently Amended) An air spring actuator, according to claim ~~17~~ 16, wherein said visual travel ~~indicator~~ determination means is a linear measuring device.

~~19~~ 18. (Currently Amended) An air spring actuator, according to claim ~~10~~ 9, wherein said air spring actuator further includes a means for controlling volume of said air spring actuator.

20. (New) In a railway car mounted brake assembly including a pair of brake beams mounted at each end of such car mounted brake assembly, each of such brake beams having a brake head attachable to each end thereof, each of such brake heads carrying a brake shoe thereon, each of such brake heads being positioned for engagement of a respective one of such brake shoes with a respective railway vehicle wheel during a brake application, each of such brake beams having a control linkage pivotally attached thereto, a first force transmitting member attached to opposed first ends of each of such control linkages and a second force transmitting member attached to a second end of one of such control linkage and longitudinally extending toward a respectively opposed second end of such control linkage: the improvement comprising an air spring actuator connectable to and disposed intermediate such second force

transmitting member and such second control linkage for applying and releasing such brake beams, said air spring actuator comprising:

(a) a first substantially vertically disposed plate like member having a first substantially planar surface and a means connected to said first substantially vertically disposed plate like member for securing said air spring actuator to such second control linkage;

(b) a second substantially vertically disposed plate like member having a second substantially planar surface and a a means connected to said second substantially vertically disposed plate like member for securing said air spring actuator to one of such brake beam, such second force transmitting member and a combination thereof; and

(c) at least one inflatable air bag spring having a pair of substantially vertically disposed planar surfaces for engagement with and attachment to said first substantially planar surface of said first substantially vertically disposed plate like member and said second substantially planar surface of said second substantially vertically disposed plate like member, whereby selective inflation and deflation of said at least one inflatable air bag spring in a longitudinal direction enables a reciprocal motion thereof to move such control linkages and such

force transmitting members for actuating and deactuating such brake beams.

21. (New) The improvement according to claim 20, wherein said air spring actuator includes means attached to said first substantially vertically disposed plate like member for shielding at least a portion of said at least one air bag spring from detrimental extraneous foreign material.

22. (New) The improvement according to claim 20, wherein said air spring actuator includes means disposed with said first substantially vertically disposed plate like member and said second substantially vertically disposed plate like member for guiding and alignment thereof during said reciprocal motion of said at least one inflatable air bag spring.